



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 23, 2006

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## ***USDA Rural Housing Administrator To Tour Kansas Projects***

### ***June 25-27 Tour Will Visit 10 Rural Kansas Communities***

**Topeka, KS** – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks today announced that the Agency's national housing program Administrator, Russ Davis, will visit Kansas from June 25-27 to tour rural housing and community facility projects. The three-day tour across the State will involve reviewing seven USDA Rural Development funded projects located in six rural Kansas communities and recognizing thirteen Agency partners in five communities.

"I am very pleased that Administrator Davis has accepted my invitation to visit Kansas and tour these USDA Rural Development supported projects. The Agency is committed to assisting rural Kansas communities with their housing and community facility needs. It is important that the Administrator view the successes being accomplished across the State, yet we also plan to discuss the challenges experienced by rural communities located in Kansas," remarked State Director Banks in announcing the Administrator's upcoming tour.

Commenting on his upcoming Kansas tour, Administrator Davis stated, "I am looking forward to visiting Kansas and these rural communities. USDA Rural Development in Kansas is working aggressively to address the various community and economic development needs of many rural communities in the State, I am anxious to see the results of these Agency and rural community efforts."

In addition to touring the rural housing and community facility projects, Administrator Davis and State Director Banks also plan to meet with Ft. Riley officials to discuss the progress in providing housing and community facility needs relating to the new brigade being located at the military installation.

USDA Rural Development, in close partnership with Fort Riley, announced the Agency's 'Fort Riley Regional Initiative' during the signing of the historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the USDA and the U.S. Army in June 2005. The MoU committed both USDA and Fort Riley to cooperatively assist the personnel relocating to Fort Riley and the numerous communities in the region impacted by the Post's expansion.

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“USDA Rural Development’s ‘Fort Riley Regional Initiative’ provides an excellent opportunity for communities benefiting from the Fort Riley expansion to create more affordable housing opportunities, along with enhancing their local infrastructure. Whether it be improving local housing or upgrading community projects such as health care services, USDA Rural Development is positioned to assist in this very important Kansas economic development opportunity,” commented State Director Banks.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improving the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, the Agency provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, individuals may contact the Agency at 785-271-2700 or visit the Agency’s Kansas website at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks)

**USDA Rural Development – *Committed to the future of rural communities***